

Two New Subspecies of *Pseudonympha southeyi* (Pennington)* (Lepidoptera: Satyridae) from the Western Cape Province

By C. G. C. DICKSON

**Melampias southeyi* Pennington, J. ent. Soc. S. Afr., Vol. XVI, No. 2, p.p. 95-99, figs. 4-5 (1953).

As a result of the great extension, in a westerly direction, of the known range of *Pseudonympha southeyi*, a butterfly which was first found in the New England district of the Eastern Cape Province, two further races of this insect are now recognised and these are described below.

Pseudonympha southeyi wykehami subsp. nov.

Similar basically to the nominate race, the upperside being dark brown with, in the forewing of the male, a usually dull and ill-defined sub-basal fulvous area and a distinct and much larger reddish-orange patch adjoining the rather small subapical, black, bipupillate ocellus—with the colouring continuous from near the base of the forewing in the female—and the hindwing devoid of any fulvous colouring.

Male. Upperside.

Forewing. In the holotype and one of the paratypes, the sub-basal marking is comparatively prominent (but without clearly defined edges) and distinctly reddish-orange in colour. Main area inclined to be a little more conspicuous, and often of a somewhat brighter, more orange tone than is usual in typical *Ps. southeyi*; its size variable but on an average about normal and its lower portion reaching or stopping just short of vein 1. Inner edge of patch not sharply defined but outer edge comparatively clear-cut.

Hindwing. As in the nominate race and unmarked apart from an indistinct darker line submarginally.

Underside.

Forewing. Reddish-orange area (more orange than on upperside), extends from near base up to (or nearly so) a very dark submarginal streak and, inferiorly, falls below vein 1. Ocellate spot somewhat larger than on upperside. Although quite marked individual variation may occur in specimens, there appears to be no entirely constant difference in the forewing underside of the two races.

Hindwing. Dark or fairly dark brown, variegated with whitish and marked with fine dark striolation. The irregular dark discal line generally more prominent against its background than in *southeyi* (and the more or less developed, first line from base prominent in some specimens); the small dark, submarginal, at least partially ocellate, spots much as in the nominate race and varying individually in their development. In the present race, there is a characteristic lighter zone beyond the discal line.

Length of forewing: 18-21.5 mm. (20.5 mm. in holotype).

Female. Upperside.

As is the case in the nominate race, both wings of a less dark shade of brown than in the male; but less greyish than in nominate females available for comparison.

Forewing. Reddish-orange colouring continuous from near base to ocellate spot and area below it, as in the female of the nominate race.

Hindwing. As in the male, apart from the less dark tone.

Underside.

Forewing. Practically as in the male.

Hindwing. Allowing for individual variation, very much as in the male and with the pale greyish irroration no lighter or more intense (vide description of typical race); a light, rather square patch towards the base of area 4 tending to stand out rather prominently against the background, in most specimens.

Length of forewing: 19.75-21.75 mm. (the latter figure, in allotype).

♂ Holotype and ♀ allotype: Karroo hills (western portion of Wagenbooms Bergen) between Matroosberg (formerly Triangle) Railway Station and Eendracht, Western Cape Province, 6-13.XI.1966 (taken by the writer); two ♂ and four ♀ paratypes with same data (except for one ♀, taken by Dr. Jeffrey Kaplan), and others as follows:—two ♂♂ and one ♀ from same locality, collected on 16.X.1966 (C. W. Wykeham) and 6.XI.1966 (by the writer); one ♂ (the original capture): Eendracht, 27.XI.1963 (C. W. Wykeham).

The holotype and allotype and one male paratype have been given to the British Museum (Natural History) (British Museum type numbers: ♂ H.T. Rhop. No. 18545, ♀ A.T. 18546, ♂ P.T. 18547).

Variation is noticed principally in the development of the sub-basal colouring of the forewing upperside of the male and in that of the light scaling and darker marking of the underside, in both sexes. The latter feature is most apparent in the first male which was taken.

When comparing the male genitalia of a single specimen of this race with Dr. G. van Son's clear description and figure of those of *Ps. southeyi southeyi* in "The Butterflies of Southern Africa" (Pt. II, p. 132, fig. 145), some difference was observed. The falces were not more than half the length of the uncus and were more slender than in the figure; the aedeagus was not (as stated in the text) almost one-third longer than the valve, but about 15.5 per cent. longer, while its excised basal portion was considerably shorter than appears from the figure to be the case in typical *Ps. southeyi*.

Most of the specimens were found on a high rocky ridge, and nearly all of them were visiting the mauve flowers of a Composite shrub (*Aster fruticosus* L.), together with other Satyrids. The normal flight is by no means rapid; it is more or less irregular and not far above the ground. The butterfly was seen to settle fairly frequently on the ground or on small rocks.

A note by its discoverer, my nephew C. W. Wykeham, is given hereunder:—

"On a collecting trip in late November, 1963, Mr Peter Dryburgh and I stopped at the summit of the Koo Pass at a place named Eendracht.

"While searching for specimens of *Thestor dukei* van Son, I happened upon a specimen of the above race, but could not discover further specimens. A search two weeks later failed to provide more examples. On recent trips to the area specimens were found in small numbers at a spot some 10 miles north of the original locality.

"The flight is slower than that of *Pseudonympha trimenii* Butler and has a less regular beat. The species frequents the mauve Composite flowers but otherwise usually settles on the ground and stones. The butterfly appears to fly about the summits of the koppies in the heat of the day."

Pseudonympha southeyi kamiesbergensis subsp. nov.

Male. Upperside.

Forewing. Compared with most but not all examples of the nominate race, the black subapical ocellus is frequently reduced in size (and sometimes in the form of two small rings); while there is less disparity in the size of the bluish-white pupils, the lower one generally being but little smaller than the upper one.

Hindwing. As in nominate race.

Underside.

Forewing. Reddish-orange colouring from base usually a little reduced in area. (The tone varies, as in the nominate race, and in some cases is distinctly ferruginous.) Ocellus often reduced on underside also, but with more difference as a rule in the size of the pupils.

Hindwing. The dark markings no more distinct than in typical *Ps. southeyi*; the light-grey to whitish scaling often indistinct and not very pronounced in any of the specimens examined (in two of them, more extensive than in the others). A feature which may be quite prominent in the present race (as in the male figured) is the light crescentic marking at the distal end of the cell. The small dark submarginal ocelli more often, than in the nominate race, with distinct, light centres.

Length of forewing: 20-21.5 mm. (21 mm. in holotype).

Female. Upperside.

Forewing. The reddish-orange area from base is, at least in the allotype, rather markedly constricted about half-way along its length; its demarcation not clear-cut except along distal edge, which is bounded by an irregular dark-brown line.

Hindwing. As in male, apart from the lighter tone (which applies to upperside as a whole).

Underside.

Forewing. Reddish-orange area constricted as on upperside but, excepting outwardly, its demarcation better defined; an irregular, inwardly-concave, ferruginous line across this area, well beyond cell, and the usual dark line distally a little beyond its outer limit, forming the continuation of the forementioned line. Apical and terminal areas irrorated with dark and light scaling.

Hindwing. First dark, irregular line from base and the similar discal line clearly defined; the irregularly-disposed light scaling fairly pronounced and more whitish than in the nominate female.

Length of forewing: 21.5 mm.

♂ Holotype and ♀ allotype: Kamieskroon, Little Namaqualand, 21 and 23.X.1964 (D. A. Swanepoel); four ♂ paratypes with same data, including dates of capture of 21-23.X.1964.

The holotype and allotype are in Mr. Swanepoel's collection, one ♂ paratype has been presented to the British Museum (Natural History), another to the Transvaal Museum and two are in the writer's collection).

(The British Museum specimen is the example which is figured.)

When examining the male genitalia of a single example of this race, the falces were found to be about half the length of the uncus; the aedeagus was of the same length as the valve and the length of the basal excised portion was about 28 per cent. of the total length; the ventral margin of the valve was concave at about a quarter of the distance from the base of the valve, while the tip of the valve was bluntly pointed on the dorsal side.

This race is one of the more recent of the numerous discoveries of Mr. Swanepoel, whose consistent study of South African butterflies during the past 40 years has added so much to our knowledge of the subject. The subspecific name which has been used was proposed by Mr. Swanepoel and a note which he has furnished on this butterfly appears hereunder.

"When I first saw this dark Satyrid on the Kamiesberg I was impressed by its very rapid and sustained flight, similar in a way, to that of *Pseudonympha gaika* Riley. The butterfly was particularly active when warm and sunny weather prevailed. It was captured among fairly tall shrubs growing, in some places, very densely on the northern slopes of a high peak of the Kamiesberg near Kamieskroon."

Mr. K. M. Pennington and Mr. W. Teare have most kindly loaned specimens of typical *Ps. southeyi* for comparison with the two races concerned, those of Mr. Teare having been freshly-caught examples; while Mr. Pennington had given to the writer, many years previously, two of his male paratypes of this butterfly. The descriptions of *Ps. southeyi wykehami* and *Ps. southeyi kamiesbergensis* have been perused, respectively, by Mr. Pennington and Mr. Swanepoel.

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A Note on *Pseudonympha trimenii* Butler (Lepidoptera, Satyridae)

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When describing a new race of *Pseudonympha trimenii* Butler (*Ent. Rec.*, **78**: 85-87), the writer referred to another race from Little Namaqualand, which Dr. G. van Son was describing. The description of the latter, under the name of *Ps. trimenii namaquana*, duly appeared in the Annals of the Transvaal Museum, vol. **25**, No. 4, p. 88, on 30th June 1966 and Dr. van Son states, *inter alia*:—"The present subspecies differs from the nominate *Ps. trimenii* in the diffuse and reduced (occasionally absent) basal orange-red patch of forewing upperside and in the much narrower white outer edging of the ocellate spots of the hindwing underside". It is quite distinct also from *Ps. trimenii ruthae*, the first mentioned race, as well as from *Ps. trimenii nieuwveldensis* (described by the present writer (*Ent. Rec.*, **78**: 273-275)).

In numerous specimens of *Ps. trimenii namaquana* now at the disposal of the writer, while of limited extent in the male, the rather noticeably crescentic-shaped orange-red marking below the black ocellus of the forewing upperside is yet quite conspicuous; the ocellus itself is generally decidedly large. In female specimens the orange red marking below the ocellus is similarly shaped, though in most specimens, more extensive than in the male. On the hindwing underside the usually relatively large areas of plain greyish-brown colouring are at once noticed in this race. The